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New Stuyahok Traditional Council
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Traditional Council of Togiak
P.O. Box 310
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Clarks Point Village Council
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Twin Hills Village Council
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Aleknagik Traditional Council
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Portage Creek Village Council
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Chignik Lake Traditional Council
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Pilot Point Tribal Council
P.O. Box 449
Pilot Point, Alaska 99649
Telephone: 907-797-2308

Pedro Bay Village Council
P.O. Box 47020
Pedro Bay, Alaska 99647
Telephone: 907-850-2225



Michael Regan
Administrator-designate:

Jane Nishida
Acting Administrator
Mail Code 1101A
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator-designate Regan and Acting Administrator Nishida:

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, has threatened the region's waters and our Alaska Native Tribes for nearly two decades. This lingering project has created uncertainty for those who depend on Bristol Bay for their livelihoods—including thousands of Tribal members living a traditional subsistence way of life and our world-class commercial and sport fisheries which provide 14,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in annual revenue to the American economy. If the Pebble Mine is constructed, all of that would be jeopardized.

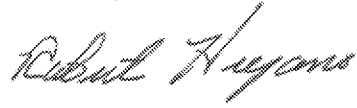
Bristol Bay's watershed is the most ecologically and economically important remaining salmon fishery on Earth; it provides nearly half the world's wild sockeye salmon. Destroying thousands of acres of wetlands and hundreds of miles of streams where sockeye salmon spawn would irreparably damage one of the largest wild salmon fisheries left in the world. In addition, these fish are economically and culturally important to our Native way of life in Bristol Bay. Our people and the salmon share a connection going back to time immemorial.

The past four years brought Pebble closer to becoming a reality than anyone thought possible. In spite of a flawed mine plan and serious environmental concerns, the Trump administration rolled back proposed protections for the region and rushed this project forward into the federal permitting process. While the federal permit was denied at the end of last year, the protections for the region were successfully rolled back, meaning that mining the Pebble deposit remains open to the company. The uncertainty for those of us who depend on Bristol Bay persists.

Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act allows the federal government to permanently protect any watershed from the threat of mining. Our Tribes firmly believe, and therefore formally request, that the EPA use this authority under the Clean Water Act and make ending the threat of the Pebble Mine a top priority.

The Tribal people of Bristol Bay and those whose livelihoods depend on its waters have dealt with uncertainty from the threat of the Pebble Mine for far too long. Our Tribes firmly believe, and therefore formally request, that the EPA use this authority under the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay and prioritize ending the threat of mines like Pebble in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Heyano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Heyano" clearly distinguishable.

Robert Heyano
President
United Tribes of Bristol Bay

cc:

Brenda Mallory, Chair-designate, Council on Environmental Quality
Vance Stewart, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Radhika Fox, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water and Acting
Assistant Administrator for Water, EPA
JoAnn Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office, Office of
International and Tribal Affairs, EPA
Cecilia Martinez, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, CEQ
Matt Lee-Ashley, Interim Chief of Staff, CEQ
Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, Senior Director for Water, CEQ